CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a loose skin surface overlying a collagen tissue site, comprising:

identifying a person suspected of having a the loose skin surface;

providing an energy source with an energy delivery surface;

positioning the energy delivery surface on the loose skin surface;

creating a reverse thermal gradient, wherein a temperature of the skin surface is less than a temperature of the collagen containing tissue;

delivering a sufficient amount of energy through the skin surface to contract at least a portion of the collagen containing tissue with controlled cell necrosis in the skin surface; and

tightening the loose skin surface.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface without creating a substantial cell necrosis in the loose skin surface.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface with a reduced cell necrosis in a skin layer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface and smoothen the loose skin surface.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface and improve a contour of the loose skin surface.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface and reduce a scarring of the loose skin surface.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface and reduce a wrinkling of the loose skin surface.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the energy source is an RF energy source.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

an RF electrode coupled to the RF energy source, the RF electrode including an RF energy delivery surface positionable on the loose skin surface.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

a source of electrolytic media coupled to RF electrode.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the electrolytic media is an electrolytic solution.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the electrolytic media is an electrolytic gel.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the energy source is a light source.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the light source is a coherent light source.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

a coherent light delivery device configured to be coupled to the coherent light source.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the light source is an incoherent light source.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the energy source is a microwave source.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the energy source is an ultrasound source.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the collagen containing tissue is partially denatured by cleaving heat labile cross-links of collagen molecules.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

a cooling medium configured to create a cooling of the loose skin surface.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the collagen containing tissue is in a subdermal layer.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the collagen containing tissue is in a deep dermal layer.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the collagen containing tissue is in a subcutaneous layer.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the collagen containing tissue is in facial and muscle tissue.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of the collagen containing tissue does not exceed 80 degrees C.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of the collagen containing tissue does not exceed 75 degrees C.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature of the collagen containing tissue does not exceed 70 degrees C.

28. An apparatus for applying energy to a loose skin surface, comprising:

an identification means for detecting a loose skin surface;

an electrolytic media means;

an electrolytic media delivery means adapted to receive the electrolytic media and release the electrolytic media to the loose skin surface;

an RF electrode means coupled to the electrolytic media means , wherein the electrolytic media means delivers energy to the loose skin surface to create a controlled cell necrosis and tighten the loose skin surface.

29. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electrolytic media is an electrolytic solution.

30. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electrolytic media is an electrolytic gel.

31. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the RF electrode means is separated from the loose skin surface.

32. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the RF electrode means is positioned in an interior of the electrolytic media delivery means.

33. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the RF electrode means is positioned on an exterior surface of the electrolytic media delivery means.

34. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the electrolytic media means receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode means to create a contraction of collagen in the skin.

35. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the electrolytic media means receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode means to deliver energy through a papillary dermis layer.

36. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the electrolytic media means receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode means to supply energy through a reticular dermis layer of the skin.

37. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the electrolytic media means receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode means to supply energy through a subcutaneous layer of the skin and an underlying soft tissue.

38. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the RF electrode means is coupled to an RF energy source.

39. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

a sensor means coupled to loose skin surface.

40. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

a feedback control means coupled to the sensor means and to an RF energy source means.

41. A method for treating skin, comprising:

identifying a person suspected of having a loose skin surface;

providing an apparatus for applying energy to the loose skin surface, the apparatus including an electrolytic media, a member, and an RF electrode;

transferring energy from the RF electrode to the electrolytic media to create an energy delivery electrolytic media;

releasing the energy delivery electrolytic media from the member to the loose skin surface;

treating the loose skin surface with energy from the energy delivery electrolytic media; and

tightening the loose skin surface.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface without creating a substantial cell necrosis in the loose skin surface.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein a sufficient amount of energy is delivered through the loose skin surface with a reduced cell necrosis in a skin layer.

44. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media is an electrolytic solution.

45. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media is an electrolytic gel.

46. The method of claim 41, wherein energy from the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface creates a controlled cell necrosis.

47. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media creates a tightening of the skin.

48. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media creates a tightening of a subcutaneous tissue.

49. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled cell necrosis of the loose skin surface.

50. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled zone of cell necrosis of the loose skin surface.

51. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled zone of collagen contraction of a dermis and fibrous septae of a subcutaneous tissue.

52. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled zone of loose skin surface ablation.

53. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled zone of skin tightening.

54. The method of claim 41, wherein the energy delivery electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled zone of subcutaneous tightening.

55. The method of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a contraction of collagen in the skin.

56. The method of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to create a controlled cell necrosis of the loose skin surface.

57. The method of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to supply energy through a papillary dermis layer.

58. The method of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to supply energy through a reticular dermis layer of the skin.

59. The method of claim 41, wherein the electrolytic media receives sufficient energy from the RF electrode to supply energy through a subcutaneous layer and an underlying soft tissue.

60. The method of claim 41, wherein the RF electrode receives a

controlled delivery of energy from an RF power source.

61. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing a temperature of the loose skin surface during delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

62. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing a temperature of the loose skin surface after delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

63. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing a temperature of a tissue underlying the loose skin surface during the delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

64. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing a temperature of a tissue underlying the loose skin surface after delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

65. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing an impedance of the loose skin surface during delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

66. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing an impedance of the loose skin surface after delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

67. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
sensing an impedance of a tissue underlying the loose skin surface during the delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

68. The method of claim 41, further comprising:

sensing an impedance of a tissue underlying the loose skin surface after delivery of the energy delivery electrolytic media to the loose skin surface.

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